

Message Text

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ORIGIN DEA-05

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 HEW-08 SS-20 AGR-20 /135 R

DRAFTED BY DEA:GKELLY/NIDA:JSMITH:DD

APPROVED BY IO/HDC: LNCVANAUGH

S/NM:DMILLER

SAODAP:CCOWAN (INFO)

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R 151538Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 178738

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UN

SUBJECT: INCB'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RE HASHISH OIL

REF: GENEVA 4673

1. FIRST SEIZURE OF HASHISH OIL WHICH CAME TO ATTENTION OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) OCCURRED IN 1971 IN LEBANON WHEN 51 KILOGRAMS OF HASHISH OIL WAS SEIZED. ON JULY 30, 1973, THE DEA TASK FORCE IN BELVEDERE, CALIFORNIA SEIZED 3,796 GRAMS OF HASHISH OIL WHICH WAS FOUND TO BE 90 PERCENT THC. CURRENTLY DEA IS SEIZING HASHISH OIL LABORATORIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND HAS ASSISTED ON LABORATORY SEIZURES IN MEXICO. IN APRIL 1973, 16 GRAM SAMPLE OF HASHISH OIL WAS FURNISHED TO DEA IN AFGHANISTAN. IN JUNE 1974 INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY DEA RESULTED IN THE SEIZURE OF 15 KILOGRAMS OF HASHISH OIL AND 7 KILOGRAMS OF HASHISH IN BEIRUT, LEBANON. ALSO IN JUNE, INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY DEA LEAD TO THE SEIZURE OF 6.5 KILOGRAMS OF HASHISH OIL AND THE ARREST OF TWO DEFENDANTS IN KARACHI, PAKISTAN. IN JANUARY 1974, 11 LITERS OF HASHISH OIL, SECRETED IN 1970 CITROEN WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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SEIZED AND THREE PERSONS ARRESTED IN KARACHI, PAKISTAN.

INFORMATION HAD BEEN SUPPLIED TO PAKISTAN AUTHORITIES BY DEA.

2. HASHISH OIL SEIZURES ARE NOT CONFINED TO THE U.S. AND NEAR EAST. IN JANUARY 1974 DEA AGENTS ASSISTED FRENCH

POLICE IN SEIZURE OF 8 LITERS OF HASHISH OIL. DURING MARCH 1974 INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DEA LED TO SEIZURES OF 8 LITERS AND 3 LITERS OF HASHISH OIL IN GERMANY. DURING APRIL 1974 AUTOMOBILE CONTAINING 8 QUARTS OF HASHISH OIL WAS SEIZED IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND. CAR HAD BEEN SHIPPED BY AIR FROM ROME, ITALY. DURING JUNE 1974 INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DEA IN GERMANY LED TO THE SEIZURE OF 6 LITERS OF HASHISH OIL.

3. FOLLOWING CHART LISTS APPROXIMATE WEIGHT OF SEIZURES OF HASHISH OIL WHICH DEA HAS MADE OR PARTICIPATED IN DURING PAST FOUR YEARS. CHART ILLUSTRATES THAT SEIZURES ARE ON AN UPWARD TREND, EXCEPT FOR 1972. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE SEIZURES FOR THE YEAR 1974 ARE THOSE RECORDED ONLY THROUGH JUNE 1974.

1971	51 KILOGRAMS
1972	37 KILOGRAMS
1973	145.76 KILOGRAMS
1974	112.6 KILOGRAMS

4. EFFECTS OF MARIHUANA AND HASHISH ON HEALTH IS DESCRIBED IN SEVERAL RECENT REPORTS, INCLUDING HEW'S THIRD ANNUAL MARIHUANA AND HEALTH REPORT, WHICH CONTAINS DISCUSSION MOST SALIENT AREAS. ALTHOUGH ABUSE OF LIQUID HASH NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY INVESTIGATED, HIGH POTENCY OF MATERIAL (ROUGHLY 22 TO 65 PERCENT THC) APPEARS SIMILAR TO HIGH DOSES OF THC STUDIED IN PREVIOUS TOXICITY RESEARCH AND DESCRIBED IN M AND H REPORT AND IN SEPARATE ARTICLE, "TOXICOLOGY OF CANNABINOIDS," BY M. BRAUDE. MISSION HOLDS FORMER; LATTER BEING POUCHED.

5. STUDIES TO DATE ON DELTA-9-THC AND EQUIVALENT DOSES OF CRUDE MARIHUANA SUGGEST NO REASON TO ASSUME TWO MATERIALS UNCLASSIFIED

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SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT. FOR MORE DETAILS REFER CANADIAN LE DAIN REPORT ON "CANNABIS," OTTAWA, 1973, PAGES 43 AND 44, WHERE RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS SUGGEST LIQUID HASH IS THAT DESCRIBING EFFECT OF DELTA-9-THC OF EQUIVALENT POTENCY.

6. PROBLEMS WITH LIQUID HASH/HEALTH RELATIONSHIP DEPEND IN PART ON PATTERNS OF USE WHICH NOW UNKNOWN. HIGH

POTENCY OF HASH OIL SUGGESTS GREATER POSSIBILITY OF OVER-
DOSE SINCE TITRATION OF EFFECT BY USER MAY BE MORE DIFFI-
CULT. NIDA AGREES THAT MORE STUDIES NEEDED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OILS, HASHISH, DRUG ABUSE, DRUG SEIZURES, TRENDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE178738
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GKELLY/NIDA:JSMITH:DD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740225-0180
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740844/aaaablpy.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN DEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: GENEVA 4673
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <13-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCB'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RE HASHISH OIL
TAGS: SNAR, UN, INCB, DEA
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005